

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2-39 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

1. (Original) An optical switch comprising:

a plurality of optical fibers for use in transmitting optical signals;

a plurality of beam forming devices each having an optical aperture, each of said beam forming devices being optically associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of optical fibers, said fibers and beam forming devices being configured such that each of said beam forming devices can image an optical aperture of a corresponding one of said fibers onto the optical aperture of another one of said beam forming devices corresponding to another one of said fibers;

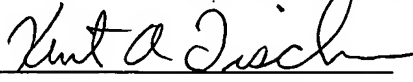
a plurality of beam directing devices, each of said beam directing devices being optically associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of optical fibers, said beam directing devices being operative to establish an optical connection between a first fiber of said optical fibers and a second of said optical fibers by directing beams from said first fiber to said second fiber and directing beams from said second fiber to said first fiber so as to permit bi-directional communication between said first and second fibers;

said beam directing devices further being operative for establishing said connection between said first and second fibers such that, at an optical aperture of each of said first and second fibers, any angle between an axis of a beam entering or exiting a respective one of said first and second fibers and an axis of said respective one of said first and second fibers, is less than a numerical aperture of said respective one of said first and second fibers.

2. - 39. Canceled.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSH FISCHMANN & BREYFOGLE LLP

By: 

Kent A. Fischmann, Esq.

Registration No. 35,511

3151 South Vaughn Way, Suite 411

Aurora, Colorado 80014

(720)562-5501

Date: November 15, 2004